

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00149 222007Z

42

ACTION SNM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0149

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FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BU

SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF CCINC TRAINING PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 7471; B) SOFIA 1759 AND PREVIOUS; C) SOFIA 1357
AND PREVIOUS

1. INADEQUATE COORDINATION BETWEEN DEA AND CUSTOMS IS NOT CURRENTLY A PROBLEM HERE. IT HAS TAKEN VERY FIRM EMBASSY ACTION TO FORESTALL DIFFICULTIES IN RECENT PAST, BUT BY MAINTAINING STRICT EMBASSY CONTROL OF APPROACHES BY BOTH ORGANIZATIONS TO GOB, MAJOR DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN CIRCUMVENTED. FURTHER DETAILS, IF NEEDED, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM REFTELS B AND C.

2. BASIC SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS: US CUSTOMS WAS FIRST TO BE ACTIVE IN BULGARIA, CONDUCTING NARCOTICS DETECTION SEMINARS HERE FOR PAST THREE YEARS IN COOPERATION WITH BULGARIAN CUSTOMS. WORKING RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN GOOD AND PROFITABLE. INTRODUCTION OF DEA UPON SCENE WAS POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE ELEMENT IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF ANY CORRESPONDING BULGARIAN AGENCY, BULGARIAN WARINESS
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OF DEA POLICE-TYPE FUNCTIONS, LIMITED GOB INTEREST IN

NARCOTICS BECAUSE OF LITTLE IF ANY DOMESTIC PROBLEM,
AND GENERAL STATE OF US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.

3. AS SITUATION NOW STANDS, DEA'S ACTIVITIES ARE LIMITED
TO INFREQUENT EXCHANGES OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON
SUSPECTED NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS. THERE IS NO POTENTIAL IN
FORESEEABLE FUTURE FOR DEA-CONDUCTED, IN-COUNTRY TRAIN-
ING PROGRAMS. ANOTHER US CUSTOMS CONDUCTED TRAINING
PROGRAM IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE OF 1976.
IN MEANTIME, BULGARIAN DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS AND HIS CHIEF
ASSISTANT IN NARCOTICS MATTERS WILL VISIT US IN APRIL
FOR OBSERVATION PROGRAM AT INVITATION OF US CUSTOMS.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR AND COORDIN-
ATE ALL US ACTIVITIES IN NARCOTICS FIELD, WHETHER INITIA-
TIVES COME FROM DEA OR CUSTOMS.
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